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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1949.

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The Mayor,
Aldermen and Councillors of
THE BOROUGH OF ALDEBURGH.

Mr. Mayor,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I herewith present my Annual Report for 1949. This Report has been prepared more or less on the lines of previous years.

During the year under review the Borough seems to have maintained its deserved reputation for being a health resort.

There was little infectious disease and the general health of the community seems to have been good. The Death Rate, while rather high, is no cause for anxiety - the high average age at death rather confirms the view that the climate is kinder than one would at first suppose.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council and Officials for their continued trust and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H.IMRIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
Aldeburgh.

B O R O U G H O F A L D E B U R G H.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Officers:

C.H.IMRIE, T.D., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

P.V.DAVIES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

A. STATISTICS.

General:

Area of the Borough in Acres	2,679
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	2,501
Number of inhabited houses (approximately)	1,050
Rateable value of the Borough	£23,945.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£87-14-10d.
Rainfall in inches	18.25

VITAL STATISTICS.

1. Live Births:

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Birth Rate per 1000 Population.
Legitimate	28	16	12	12.3
Illegitimate	3	3	-	

Birth Rate England and Wales 16.7

2. Still Births:

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per 1000 Population.
Legitimate	-	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

Rate per 1000 Population England and Wales .. 0.39

3. Deaths:

Total.	Male.	Female.	Death Rate per 1000 Population.
46	19	27	18.3

Death Rate England & Wales - 11.7

4. Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per 1000 live Births.
Legitimate	1	-	1	32.2
Illegitimate	-	-	-	

Deaths all causes under 1 year of age for England & Wales - 32.0

Deaths by causes:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	2	4
Heart Disease	8	9	17
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	2
Cancer	1	1	2
Bronchitis	-	2	2
Pnuemonia	-	1	1
Nephritis	3	-	3
Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Other Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Infant disorders etc.	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
All other causes	3	9	12
	19	27	46

Age groups at Death:

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	70-	80-	90-
Male	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	7	-
Female	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	6	11	2

Comparison of Statistics with previous years:

	1949	1948	1947
Live Births Rate per 1000 population	12.3	19.17	18.2
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population	-	0.39	0.42
General Death Rate per 1000 population	18.3	11.3	12.29
Infantile Death Rate (under 1 year)	32.2	40.8	23.2

Comment on the Statistics for 1949.

It will be seen from the above that the Birth Rate has fallen considerably when compared not only with the rate for previous years, and also with that for England and Wales as a whole. The Death Rate on the other hand is much above the rate for 1947 and 1948 and also the rate for England and Wales. These figures suggest that a considerable proportion of the population of the Borough is composed of the high age groups. This is in fact probably the case. Unfortunately the inevitable result is that without immigration the population will fall.

There is, however, reason for satisfaction in the absence of Still Births and the low Infantile Death Rate. These two Rates are a measure of the environmental and health state of the population and taken with the high average age at death it is indicated that the health of Aldeburgh is satisfactory. It is of interest to note that of all deaths 93% were over the age of 60 years and 43% over the age of 80. The average age at death being 73.4 years.

B. Notifiable Disease - (Non-Tuberculous).

	AGE GROUP IN YEARS.										TOTAL	TOTAL
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	1949.	1948.
1. Measles.	-	1	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10
2. Whooping Cough.	-	1	4	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	11	1
3. Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
4. Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
5. Jaundice.	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	6	1
6. Food Poisoning.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
											29.	13.

Whooping cough with 11 cases was more prevalent than any other single infection during the year. Measles cases on the other hand, were rather fewer than in the previous year. With 6 cases Infective Jaundice figures were higher than expected. There did not, however, appear to be any connection between the cases. Food poisoning of a mild type was notified in two cases, one a visitor and the other a native of the Borough. It is fairly certain that one was infected outside the District and there was nothing to indicate the origin of the second.

Infectious disease, taken all together, was not unduly frequent and the types of infection were not such as to cause anxiety.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number on Register at beginning of year.	3.	4.	1.	2.	10.
Number added during the year.	1.	-	-	1.	2.
Number removed during the year.	2.	1.	-	1.	4.
	2.	3.	1.	2.	8.

Reasons for removal from Register.

Recovered	1.
Moved from Borough	2.
Died	1.
	4

It will be seen that by the end of the year the total number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register was eight as compared with ten at the beginning of the period.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Percentage of children 0 - 4 years immunised	-	70.2
Percentage of all children immunised	-	88.3
Reinforcing doses	-	8

C. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

The arrangements for hospitalisation of both general and infectious cases remains more or less the same. All infectious patients are sent to the isolation Hospital at Ipswich.

Laboratory arrangements are as in previous years, Bacteriology being done by the P.H. Laboratory, Ipswich, and Chemical Analyses is carried out by the Public Analyst at Norwick.

All the services mentioned in Part 111 of the National Health Service Act 1946 are the responsibility of the County Council as is the School Health Service.

D. HOUSING.

At the end of 1949 the number of inhabited houses in the Borough was approximately 1,050 giving an average of 2.3 persons per house. This figure does not indicate any degree of over-crowding.

On the whole housing conditions in Aldeburgh are satisfactory, although there is much old property which is in many cases structurally sound, but in a few instances does not come up to modern standards of housing. Wherever possible repairs and alterations have been obtained to maintain the houses in a habitable condition.

During the year twenty new houses were built by the Council and during the same period eight dwellings were converted.

At the end of the year the number of applications on the waiting list for Council Houses was 60. This number points to the fact that the need for continued house building is still present and urgent.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

1. Refuse Collection:

Collection is being carried out in a satisfactory manner and the Corporation vehicle is giving good service. During the year, however, increasing demands have been made on the vehicle, probably due in part to a slight increase in the number of inhabited houses in the Borough. To meet this increase in demand, the replacement of the existing vehicle body by one of larger capacity is being contemplated.

For the purpose of collection refuse is grouped under the following headings. (a) Domestic Refuse, which is collected weekly. (b) Refuse from business premises which is collected twice weekly. (c) Refuse from certain food traders, (e.g. butcher and fishmerchant) daily collection.

The disposal of dry refuse is by Controlled Tipping and use of this method is made to help in land reclamation.

2. Rodent Control:

Five members of the council's staff are trained by the Ministry of Agriculture in rodent control. During the year the operatives made over 440 visits to premises in connection with infestations.

3. Sewage Disposal:

The Sewage Disposal works have now been placed in working order. Certain improvements are, however, contemplated, these include the installation of a system of chemical precipitation which should give good results.

Cesspools and Septic Tanks are in use in the outlying parts of the District which are not sewered. When necessary these are cleared by the Corporation Cesspool Emptier. During the year a number of Cesspools and Septic tanks have been inspected and improvements carried out by the owners.

During the year Sewerage extensions of 1,000 feet were made and for these 12" stoneware pipes were employed.

F. WATER.

The quantity of water available is probably very considerably in excess of the maximum possible requirements of the district, and during 1949 the amount delivered by the Waterworks has been adequate to meet all demands.

In quality the water is good, although rather hard. Chlorination is carried out at the pumping station and the residual free chlorine is estimated daily as a control.

During 1949 the toal consumption of water was 48,304,800 gallons, which is approximately 2,000,000 more than in the previous year. The average daily consumption for all purposes per head of the population is 41.64 gallons.

A representative analysis of the water is as follows. It is dated 18-3-49.

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.002	gr./gal.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002	" "
Chlorine as Chlorides	4.7	" "
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.70	" "
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil	
Total Hardness	19.4° (Clarke)	
Physical Character	Clear.	

Bacteriological investigation:

Colonies per Millilitre at 37°c. - 12
Bacellus Coli absent from 100 Millilitres.

Mains extensions during 1949 totalled 1,260 ft. and asbestos piping was employed.

G. ACTION UNDER VARIOUS ACTS & REGULATIONS.

1. Factories Act 1937.

Number of factories employing power	14
Number of factories without power	5
Visits made during the year	42
Defects	Nil.
Outworkers	Nil.

2. Housing Acts.

Housing inspections	61
Statutory Notices	Nil
Informal Notices	40

All above defects were remedied.

3. Ice Cream Regulations.

Number of retailers	7
Number of manufacturers	1
Inspections	23

4. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Inspections	81

5. National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was necessary under Section 47.

H. RAINFALL.

1949.

January	0.86 in.
February	0.98 "
March	0.97 "
April	1.19 "
May	1.93 "
June	0.57 "
July	0.51 "
August	1.07 "
September	2.67 "
October	3.70 "
November	2.23 "
December	1.57 "

Total for 1949	18.25 ins.
Total for 1948	20.20 "

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